

CHAMBERS COUNTY

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PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Community development of resources
2. Behavior interventions/programs for CHINS
3. Substance abuse prevention

Issues

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county.

Health - Children's (0 - 19)

physical and mental well-being in the county.

Every family in the county will have awareness of the importance of early dental hygiene

Policy Council Action Steps:

- solicit local service providers to reinforce during family contacts the importance of proper dental health and discontinuing bottles and pacifiers as early as possible
- obtain free printed flyers and information and distribute to families
- obtain free posters from American Dental Association and display in local businesses

All teenager and parents will recognize the consequences (pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and emotional problems) of teen activity

Policy Council Action Steps:

- educate teens and their parents about the consequences and responsibilities of early sexual involvement
- encourage teens and parents through public awareness to utilize programs offered by local agencies including, but not limited to, Circle of Care, Chambers county health department, Lee county AIDS outreach, and Department of Human Resources
- encourage successful adults and/or former residents to address, through news articles, speaking engagements, or other avenues, the importance avoiding sexual activity and of setting life goals

Safety - Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

Children in need of supervision

Policy Council Action Steps:

- create new resources
- advertise resources
- recruit volunteers for community based programs

Juvenile substance abuse

Policy Council Action Steps:

- make referrals to drug rehabilitation agencies
- develop more resources for juveniles
- develop more testing tools

Education - Children

learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

Maximize Educational Services

Policy Council Action Steps:

- expand and publicize the "We Teach and We Parent" websites
- create a "We Learn" website featuring links to schools, homework assistance sites, educational opportunities, and potential scholarships for high school seniors
- create a comprehensive resource directory regarding presentation and services available to schools

Behavior Intervention

Policy Council Action Steps:

- determine and compile a detailed list of "Best Practices" from other schools
- create a brochure explaining the Early Warning Court Process
- provide school systems with a referral form to the Juvenile Probation and the Circle of Care's SECOND CHANCE program

Early Care and

Education - Children (0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

Early parent in the county will be knowledgeable of and involved in early care

Policy Council Action Steps:

- increase Head Start enrollment by expanding number of enrollment stations
- partner with local business and community organizations to provide incentive “goody bags” to be given to parents who enroll their children in Head Start

Improving the quality of life of every child in the county

Policy Council Action Steps:

- develop and distribute a informational brochure (parent resource guide)
- advertise 2005 county health fair
- spearhead efforts to have on-site registration for Medicaid, All Kids, and Head Start at 2005 county health fair

Economic Security

- Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

Parents need educational and work skills preparation to compete in the workforce to provide for families

Policy Council Action Steps:

- increase public awareness of existing resources
- motivate parents and children to pursue academic success

Public transportation will be accessible to meet the needs of families

Policy Council Action Steps:

- evaluate existing resources
- explore resources for public transportation
- conduct survey to determine extent of need

Parent Involvement and Skills

- Parents and guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

Parent awareness and Empowerment

Policy Council Action Steps:

- support other community agencies in promoting active parental participation
 - participate in the development of web-based and print resources which offer parenting information and links to training/education opportunities
- Promoting community programs that encourage parent-child involvement and interaction

Parent-Child-School Involvement

Policy Council Action Steps:

- support school-based programs that encourage students to discuss with parents issues taught at school
- promote community-wide and school-sponsored programs and events that provide opportunities for parent participation in schools
- participate in maintaining print and/or web-based resources containing links to schools and school functions

Parent-Child Involvement

Policy Council Action Steps:

- CPC will assess and provide ongoing support to all parental involvement issues addressed in the 2005 county Needs Assessment

Policy Recommendation

1. Provide funding to promote education and materials concerning the importance of early dental hygiene
2. Consequences of early sexual activity
3. A policy that will increase the collaboration between schools and the Judicial Court system to insure that children who have been temporarily placed at correction facilities receive individualized educational plans and that upon their mandated return to the classroom are also required by the Juvenile court to adhere to current school policies
4. Additional state support/assistance for the implementation and accountability of No Child Left Behind
5. Increased funding to the county need of supervision
6. Increase funding for drug rehabilitation for juveniles of the county
7. Create a media campaign or statewide emphasis on Head Start and other pre-school programs
8. Regardless of pending budget cuts and funding shortfalls, Medicaid and All Kids must remain a top priority and continue to be funded
9. Create a policy that enables schools to make appropriate referrals without bearing the financial responsibility of the referral
10. Hold an annual state parent involvement training directed to service providers and teachers